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"eccentric origin, due to impressions conveyed to the mind through the senses and nerves."

Instinct is strongest in the lower animals, and the new-born of the higher. The young acts first by instinct, until experience and contact with the outer world awakens the dormant reason.

The author thinks that instinct is capable of improvement, that it can be educated through a series of generations, so that "the intelligence of former generations becomes converted into instinct in the descendants." Instances of the aberration of instinct are also common; it is not unerring. All organized beings have instinct. "Plants have instinct; that is, a force co-existent with their growth, and implanted originally in the seed, which impels them to the performance of actions, calculated to preserve their existence, or secure their well being."

We refer the reader to the article itself for facts in illustration of these statements.

NATURAL HISTORY MISCELLANY.

BOTANY.

Botanical Notes and Queries. — Is *Tillandsia usneoides*, the "Black" or "Long Moss" of the Southern States, strictly an epiphyte, or in some sort a parasite? I was once informed by a very intelligent person, that in Florida, where the *Tillandsia* is used by lumbermen as fodder for cattle, the plant always withered and died when the tree that bore it was cut down, showing that it is not merely epiphytic upon the dead surface of the bark. The point is worth investigating. My attention is recalled to this point by a paper on *The Relation of Lichen-growth to the health and value of Trees*, read by Dr. Lindsay before the last meeting of the British Association. Noting that arboriculturists generally regard Lichens as detrimental to the trees they grow on, Dr. Lindsay adduces, in confirmation of that view, the fact that Lichens of the sort, such as *Usnea*, *Ramalina*, etc., contain silica, alumina, lime, potash, phosphates, etc., which could not have been derived from the atmosphere, but must have come from the foster-tree. It does not certainly follow, however, that the Lichen is parasitic, as Dr. Lindsay is disposed to think, for the thallus may as well take up these earthy elements from the dead and decaying bark, and be without connection or contact with any living part of the tree. The general opinion of nurserymen and tree-growers is, that Lichens feed upon the tree, or at least in some way injure it. — A. Gray.

SALSOLA KALI GROWING INLAND.—Every summer, for the last five years, on botanical excursions, I have found at Newburgh (sixteen miles from this place) the *Salsola Kali*, growing quite abundantly on the Erie railroad near that city. All the works on Botany that I have, designate this as a *maritime* plant, and give no other habitat for it. Those specimens which grow most vigorously are found covering the side of an embankment (formed of dry, loose sand) facing the south, and consequently exposed to the scorching rays of the sun all summer. The material in which the plants are rooted is not one from which I should suppose that they could derive any of those saline matters that enter so largely into their composition.—W. R. GERARD.

ROBINIA HISPIDA.—The responses to the query in the November number about this plant are unanimous, and direct to the point, that it is simply and truly indigenous in the pine barrens of the low country, and on barren or rocky hill-tops of the upper country of the Atlantic Southern States. Dr. M. A. Curtis has fruiting specimens collected on the summit of Table Rock, North Carolina (a conclusive station as to nativity), and thinks that it fruits in the lower country as well.—A. GRAY.

PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.—NATURAL HISTORY SECTION. *Burlington, Vt., August* 21-26, 1867.—"The Insect Fauna of the Summit of Mount Washington, as compared with that of Labrador." By A. S. Packard, jr., M. D. The following notes are thrown together rather to give a summary, from data only approximately correct, of our present knowledge of the distribution of Alpine and Arctic Lepidoptera, than to give anything like a complete account.

The summit of Mount Washington, or that portion lying above the limit of trees, agrees in its climate and other physical features very closely with those of the coast of Northern Labrador, as observed at Hopedale, in latitude 55° 35′.

The seasons correspond very exactly, as the snow melts in the early summer, and ice is formed early in the autumn at about the same dates.

As is well known, the Alpine flora of the White Mountains is identical with that of the arctic regions, which extends far southward along the Atlantic shore of Labrador. Not only is the flora identical so that no species of plant is known to be restricted exclusively to our Alpine summits, but the times of leafing, of flowering, and fruit-